

Report from Northeastern Pennsylvania

FROM: S. Powell

TO: Barbara Ryan

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 4:45 PM

10-18-2011

Barbara:

Received the October 2011 *Griswold Family Bulletin* yesterday and had a grand time last night reading it from cover to cover. Thank you for all that you do, year in and year out, on behalf of the Griswolds.

Having read the latest GFA news, I decided that I had better get busy and prepare a report on Griswold activities in recent years in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Attached is a report on the 105th reunion here.

Sincerely,

S. Robert Powell

105th Northeastern Pennsylvania Griswold Reunion Report By S. Robert Powell

The descendants of John Griswold (375A) and his wife Elizabeth Crittenden have been holding annual reunions since March 22, 1906. On August 27, 2011, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Griswolds gathered for their 105th reunion, at Merli-Sarnoski Park, near Carbondale, PA.

In the Park, on the top of a mountain, is a pristine lake, on the shores of which these recent annual reunions of Griswolds have taken place. Sometimes the reunion takes place in one of the picnic pavilions, sometimes it takes place, as it did this year, around a cluster of picnic tables at the edge of the lake.

The number of people who attend each year has been declining in recent years: 23 in 2008, 20 in 2009, 12 in 2010, and 7 in 2011. Gone are the days when over a hundred people attended these reunions. It's hard to know exactly why numbers are down, but it surely must be a consequence of the fact that most of the senior members of the family who regularly attended these reunions have passed on or are unable to attend.

The senior members are, it seems, the cohesive force that holds such family gatherings together. At the same time, they are also expert recruiters who gather together all the children and grandchildren and cousins for the annual reunion.

Even though the attendance numbers are down, enthusiasm levels among those in attendance are as high as ever. At this year's gathering, Robert Lewis French and his extraordinary life and accomplishments were one of the primary topics of conversation. Like Robert French, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Griswolds descend from Michael Griswold.

We were thrilled to read in *Cousin Sue's Corner* (June 2011 *Griswold Family Bulletin*) the following sentence: "In the end, Bob's [Robert L. French] suggestion that Michael might have been a younger son of this religious zealot [Edward], never mentioned by name in the histories, who had fled to the New World with the Rev. Charles Chauncy (vicar of St. Lawrence, where Edward's father-in-law lived) and settled in Wethersfield, CT is now supported by DNA evidence that Edward and Michael are definitely related (Bob's theory makes them 5th cousins once removed)."

Robert French's intuition, now supported by DNA evidence! What a triumph! With that revelation on the table, the group at

this year's gathering then examined, with renewed enthusiasm, Coralee Griswold's monumental *The Griswold Family The Sixth & Seventh Generations Michael* Volume II.

Some northeastern Pennsylvania Griswolds on seeing with their own eyes that we, the northeastern Pennsylvania Griswolds, are an integral part of "such an impressive book as Coralee Griswolds history" could hardly believe their eyes when they saw therein the names of their grandparents and great grandparents. What a special moment!

An area of special interest to several Griswolds in Northeastern Pennsylvania these days are the military records of family members. The John Griswold (375A) from whom all northeastern Pennsylvania Griswolds descend was a Revolutionary War soldier.

The fifth child, John Griswold (1705), of the fifth son, Horace Griswold (842), of John Griswold (375A) and Elizabeth Crittenden, served in the Civil War. This was learned, in 2009, by Greg and Jill (Schermerhorn) Linko during a visit to the Gettysburg battlefield. The Linkos' nine-year old daughter, Sarah, has asked the blessing before the Griswold luncheons for several years.

The 106th Northeastern Pennsylvania Griswold Reunion will take place on August 18, 2012 at Merli-Sarnoski Park, Carbondale, PA. Contact S. Robert Powell at srp18407@yahoo.com

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcing GFA Scholarship Winners	PAGE 2
Coming Events	PAGE 3
Cousin Sue's Corner	PAGE 4
Tribute to Robert French	PAGE 5
French Research Grant Application	PAGE 6
Michael Griswold House Restoration Fund Drive	PGS 7-8
2011 Annual Reunion: Windsor CT	PGS 9-11
We Get Mail...	Page 12
DNA Project	PAGE 13
Rufus Wilmot Griswold	PGS 14-15
Give Memberships to Family	PAGE 16
GFA Publications	PAGE 17
GFA Products	PAGE 18
Contact GFA Board Members	PAGE 19

NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER FOR OUR 2011 ANNUAL REUNION JOIN US ON SATURDAY AUGUST 6TH IN WINDSOR CONNECTICUT

See pages 9-11 for Registration form, hotel information & schedule of events

WE NOW HAVE 168 FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK - search for "Griswold Family Association" and join us to share photos and information about coming events

The Robert & Esther French Research Grant is available again to fund genealogical research. See the application on page 6

Robert Lewis French
March 6, 1922 - April 3, 2011



Robert Lewis French, 89, a longtime resident of Ghent, NY, died Sunday in Syracuse. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Esther Griswold French. He is survived by children, Gerald French of West Sand Lake, NY, Geoffrey French of Ghent, and Sara French of Syracuse; five grandchildren and five siblings, and numerous nieces and nephews. Donations may be made to the Ghent Volunteer Fire Department, of which Dr French was a 25 year member. .

He was born March 6, 1922 in Elmira, NY, the son of Lewis Edwin French and Lillian Mellen French and eldest of ten children. Dr. French was employed at the NYS Department of Health, the Department of Civil Service, and the Education Department, and retired from the New York State Thruway Authority. He also worked for the US Postal Service in Hudson and the US Census Bureau.

Dr. French was valedictorian of the class of 1939 of Savona (NY) High School; received a bachelor's degree from the New York State College for Teachers at Albany (SUNY-Albany) and completed a Master of Arts degree there. He was awarded a Carnegie Fellowship and completed an M.P.A. and Ph.D. at New York University.

Dr. French taught 5th and 6th grade in the Ghent (NY) Elementary School, evenings at Russell Sage College, and the Graduate School of Public Affairs at SUNY Albany.

Dr. French served as a 2nd Lieutenant in World War II, and served in Europe with the 4th Combat Engineers. He earned 4 battle stars for the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Ardennes campaigns.

Dr. French had a strong interest in genealogy and belonged to numerous hereditary organizations including Sons of the Revolution in New York State, Empire State Society, S.A.R., Albany Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants, Society of the War of 1812, the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, National Society Americans of Royal Descent, Order of Founders and Patriots of America, and Continental Society of Descendants of Indian Wars.

Dr French was past master of Unity Lodge #9 and Columbia Lodge #98 F&AM. He was also Assistant Grand Lecturer and District Deputy Grand Master of the Columbia Masonic District.

In 1990 Dr. French collaborated with his wife Esther Griswold French in publishing The Griswold Family: the First Five Generations in America. He also was author of numerous articles in the Mayflower Quarterly and The Automobilist of the Upper Hudson Valley.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST 2012

I am very excited about hosting our 2012 Reunion, August 4-6, in Macon Georgia. I visited Macon in April and collected lots of information about things to see and do. If you want to extend your trip to the Southeast, visit Atlanta GA, or go to the coast to Savannah, GA or Charleston, SC.

Plans include visits to the site of The Battle of Griswoldville, the Ocmulgee mounds (we saw Missippian mounds in Cahokia IL), a tour of historic Macon, visit to Rose Hill Cemetery and the Macon Bibb Cty Public Library Genealogical and historical room. On Saturday afternoon we will visit the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and the Big House, the Allman Brothers home and museum. More details coming in future Bulletin issues. Barbara Ryan

COUSIN SUE'S CORNER

Please send your family milestones by email to: rgriswold01@comcast.net
(use "Griswold" or "Sue's Corner" in subject line to ensure delivery) or by mail to:
Susan Griswold, 245 Old Marlborough Tpk., Portland CT. 06480-1062

IN MEMORY OF

Robert Lewis French, died April 3, 2011. Born: March 6, 1922

From Sara French, GFA President

Dear Griswold Family: My father passed away quietly this evening at the age of 89. The eldest of 10 children, Dad was also a veteran of World War II, serving in the European theatre, landing at Normandy and entering Paris with the liberation forces. Dad's work for the GFA was very close to his heart and he was proudest of having connected our ancestors to more of their English roots. He attended many reunions up until 2007; went on two English Heritage tours; and served enthusiastically as genealogist for more than ten years.

To those of you who knew him, it will come as no surprise that Bob French wrote his own obituary. His mind was of an organized and record-keeping nature and he probably did not want to risk that his children would err in any of what he felt to be pertinent in his life. Of course, he wrote it more than 25 years ago and some things have needed to be added. The most notable of these is his work, with his wife, Esther Griswold French, on the genealogy and history of the Griswold family in both America and in England.

Bob became interested in genealogy in the early 1960's when he worked in Albany, NY and where the NYS Library provided him with the means of researching his own family as well as Esther's. When she became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Bob joined the Sons of the American Revolution, and their shared passion for family history was born. Eventually, Bob joined more than a dozen heritage societies in both the U.S. and in England. When Esther became active in researching her Griswold ancestry, Bob went along and eventually he found he, too, was descended from two of the Griswold immigrants-Michael and Francis.

After he retired in 1980, Bob and Esther spent many weekends working on their family history. They knew every courthouse in upstate New York and most of the state libraries in New England. Their serious interest in Griswold research led them to become genealogists for the GFA in 1984. They worked diligently to revise Glenn E. Griswold's original genealogy volumes, published in the 1930's and 1940's, and published *The Griswold Family: The First Five Generations in America*, in 1990. Bob & Esther did not stop there-in 1993 they took their first joint trip to England (Bob had served in the European theatre in WWII) and began to trace the English roots of the four Griswolds who had come to the colonies in the 1640's. Although it was relatively easy to connect Francis, Matthew, and Edward to their English forebears, Michael, Bob's ancestor, remained an enigma. No one could figure out where he came from or how he was related to the other three men. Esther said, after Bob proposed what seemed to be a rather wild theory, "Bob gets all his exercise jumping to conclusions."

Over many long evenings, thinking of all the different bits of information that the GFA knew about Michael, Bob came to the conclusion that he might be related to someone called "Edward the Madman," a Griswold who belonged to a particularly conservative puritanical sect.

One historian stated, but could not prove, that all of Edward's children died childless. In the end, Bob's suggestion that Michael might have been a younger son of this religious zealot, never mentioned by name in the histories, who had fled to the New World with the Rev Charles Chauncy (vicar at Marston St. Lawrence, where Edward's father-in-law lived) and settled in Wethersfield, CT is now supported by DNA evidence that Edward and Michael are definitely related (Bob's theory makes them 5th cousins once removed). The publication of Bob & Esther's last book, *The Griswold Family: 12 Generations in England*, proposed this theory of Michael's birth and is now generally accepted as plausible. Bob always felt that of all his research and writing, this was one of his greatest contributions to genealogy.

From Bergetta Monroe, chair of the 2010 Annual Reunion in Minnesota:

I finally got the DVD out to the members who attended the 2010 reunion in Bloomington MN. If you received one and want to read the signs in the DVD and do not have an e-mail address you can still receive them. I typed them all out and will send them to you via a friend or relative or neighbor with an e-mail address. Just have someone send me an e-mail requesting the signs print out. Thank you to all who send me something toward the material and mailing charges.

My e-mail is: Bergetta1@Q.com

Specific DNA Participants Needed! From co-administrators for the Griswold Family DNA Project, Becky Griswold and Coralee Griswold

Attention all male descendants of Jeremiah Griswold (who married Phebe Case)...we are looking for male descendants of Jeremiah Griswold to take the DNA test. We already have two DNA participants whose Griswolds lived in Nova Scotia. The results of the test place these men as descendants of Edward Griswold. That's the good news.

The bad news is that we don't know for sure where these men and Edward connect. The oldest known ancestor of these men is Samuel Griswold born about 1760 and died in 1826 in Nova Scotia. Hard as Coralee and I have tried, we have not come up with any documents that tell us who Samuel's father was.

Per The Griswold Family: The First Five Generations in America, p. 118, Samuel Griswold5 (Samuel4, Thomas3, George2, Edward1) and his wife moved to Canada and settled in Nova Scotia. The only two known children of Samuel are Jeremiah and Delight because they were left in the U.S. and raised by their grandfather, Samuel. Coralee and I are speculating that the Samuel who lived in Nova Scotia was the son of Samuel5 above and therefore brother to Jeremiah. Unfortunately, we do not have the paper documents to prove this. However, DNA, while not conclusive, except that two participants are definitely related if their DNA matches, may help us further determine if Samuel and Jeremiah are brothers. So we appeal to any male descendant of Jeremiah Griswold to take the DNA test to possibly confirm our theory.

To reiterate how the DNA project works, we use the DNA from the Y-Chromosome which only males carry. Within this chromosome is DNA which the experts label "junk DNA." It is so named because they don't know what purpose it serves. However, this DNA does something remarkable. It doesn't change when passed down from grandfather to father to son and so on. Therefore we can test this DNA and come up with a set of markers for a participant and if those markers match any other DNA participant, we know that those two men descend from the same ancestor. With the Griswold DNA project we know that all participants descend from either Edward Griswold or Michael Griswold. At first our participants tested at 25 markers. Coralee was elated that as more men participated it appeared to confirm Robert French's belief that Edward and Michael were related to each other, and in fact is theory that they were fourth cousins once removed, was being played out in the DNA. This was wonderful news and boring news all at the same time. It was boring because any male Griswold who joined the project was going to match everyone else. We had no way of even telling which ones were Edward descendants and which ones were Michael descendants.

Then something wonderful happened. Family Tree DNA, the company who we are conducting the DNA project through, came out with a new test...the 37 marker test. Our Griswold participants might think why do I need to test more markers when I already know I descend from either Michael or Edward and that is good enough for me. But as Coralee and I started encouraging our new participants to purchase the 37 marker test, we began seeing new patterns in the DNA emerge. At 37 markers we were able to differentiate between the Michael and Edward descendants. The values at the 32nd and 35th markers were emerging as definitive markers. For every participant who is a Michael descendant, the value at marker 32 was "18." And while some known Edward descendants also had a value of "18" at the 32nd marker, which baffled us at first, we then noticed they also had a value of "38" at the 35th marker --- Every single one of them. So while most Edward descendants have a value of "17" at the 32nd marker, which confirms their lineage to Edward, the ones that have a value of "18" at marker number 32 AND a value of "38" at marker number 35 also prove out to the Edward line. Needless to say, this was reason enough for our existing participants to upgrade their 25 marker test to 37 markers. Currently every Edward/Michael Griswold DNA participant has tested at 37 markers, with three participants even upgrading to 67 markers. In summary: Michael: marker 32 = 18; Edward: marker 32 = 17 OR marker 32 = 18 AND marker 35 = 38. Not to bore you with technical details, but necessary to demonstrate, (at least in the Griswold DNA Project), the importance of testing more markers as opposed to fewer. We have not found any definitive patterns in the expanded 67 marker DNA test, most likely due to a limited testing pool. Family Tree DNA just announced a 111 marker test, but to date no participants in the Griswold Project have upgraded to this test. Suffice it to say, the 37 marker test has become THE test to take for the Griswold DNA Project.

So to reiterate, if any of you are a male descendant of Jeremiah Griswold, please consider joining the Griswold DNA Project and help us make the connection for the Nova Scotia Griswolds. The 37 marker test costs \$149.00 plus \$4.00 shipping/handling. I know in this economy that is a lot of money. However the contribution you will be making to the DNA Project is.....priceless. If any male, still carrying the GRISWOLD surname is interested in joining the DNA Project (you don't have to be a Jeremiah descendant) or has any questions regarding the DNA Project, please email Coralee Griswold (coraleeg@citlink.net) or me, Becky Griswold (beckygrizz@yahoo.com), and we would be happy to help you!

RE: Report from Northeastern Pennsylvania

FROM: Barbara Ryan

TO: 'S. Powell'

Thursday, October 20, 2011 4:52 PM

Thanks so much, I'll use this in the next Bulletin. So glad you are all still meeting. I always enjoyed our trips to your area, it's beautiful country.

Best regards,

Barbara